

REMARKS

Claims 10-12 and 15-17 were rejected in a Final Office Action dated April 9, 2003. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the following remarks.

I. Communication of Substance of Interview on July 8, 2003

Initially, applicants' representative appreciates the courtesies extended by Examiners Juska and Befumo during the interview on July 8, 2003.

During the interview, applicants' representative showed a sample of the inventive material and a sample representative of known GORE-TEX® fabric. Applicants' representative explained that the GORE-TEX® fabrics described in the cited prior art included an expanded PTFE membrane coated with a polyurethane coating, which rendered the fabric air impermeable, which is different from the claimed air permeable cover for the aerobic treatment of biodegradable material.

Based on the discussions at the interview, Examiner Juska agreed to withdraw the rejections in the Final Office Action dated April 9, 2003, but she noted that an updated search of the prior art would be required.

II. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the present invention as defined by claims 10-12 and 15-17 is neither taught nor suggested by any of the references of record. Accordingly, applicants believe that the claims are in form for allowance. Applicants believe that this communication summarizing the substance of the interview satisfies all outstanding requirements in the present application, and applicants will await the results of the updated search to be performed by the Examiner.

If further questions remain, applicants request that the Examiner telephone applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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